

Nantwich Urban District.

REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR YEAR 1906.

NANTWICH :

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NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

Report of Medical Officer of Health, FOR YEAR 1906.

Medical Officer of Health :—DR. J. D. MUNRO.

Population at Census, 1901 :—7,722.

Estimated Population, middle of 1906 :—7872.

Area in Acres :—703.

Birth-rate per 1,000 living :—27·5.

Death-rate per 1,000 living :—16·6.

Death-rate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases :—1·5.

Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births :—193.

In 1906 the *Births Registered* numbered 217. In first quarter 59, in second 57, in third 59, and in fourth 42.

The Birth-rate—27·5 per 1,000—is the lowest recorded in the District during the last twelve years of which I have record, and is steadily declining, as is the Birth-rate in the country generally.

The number of *Deaths Registered* in the District was 121, and adding 10 deaths which occurred in the Workhouse Hospital of residents in the District, brings the number to 131.

In first quarter there were 45 deaths, in second 13, in third 37, and in fourth 36.

The Death-rate for the second quarter of 5·6 was the lowest quarterly Death-rate for the District of which I have record.

Infant Mortality—Forty-two of the deaths were infants under one year of age, viz:—1 Whooping Cough, 7 Pneumonia, 3 Bronchitis, 3 Marasmus, 3 Convulsions, 1 Meningitis, 6 Diarrhœa, 4 Infantile Syphilis, 2 Gastro-intestinal Catarrh, 8 Premature Birth, 2 Infantile Debility, and 2 accidentally Suffocated in Bed.

The infant mortality is exceedingly high, and is at the rate of 193 deaths under one year to 1,000 births.

Zymotic Diseases—Twelve cases were notified, viz:—1 Scarlet Fever, 7 Diphtheria, 3 Membranous Croup, and 1 Erysipelas.

The deaths from Zymotic Diseases number 12, viz:—1 Membranous Croup, 3 Whooping Cough, 1 Measles, and 7 Diarrhœa.

The *Zymotic Death-rate* was 1·5 per 1,000.

Scarlet Fever—One case only was reported and recovered. In June, I reported a case in which a boy was exposing himself in a public place while suffering from Scarlet Fever, and in an infectious state. The Council prosecuted the parent, obtained a conviction, and a fine was imposed.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup—Ten cases were reported—7 Diphtheria and 3 Membranous Croup. One Membranous Croup case proved fatal. At five of the houses where these cases occurred sanitary defects were found and rectified, and at several of the houses an entirely new system of drainage was put down.

Erysipelas—One case was reported.

Whooping Cough was prevalent during the first quarter of the year, and three deaths were reported.

Measles caused one death in December.

The Infectious Diseases' Hospital at Alvaston, of the Joint Hospital Board, was opened on 11th October, 1906.

It will undoubtedly be of great benefit to the District in preventing the spread of Infectious Diseases.

Smallpox Hospital has been kept in readiness for use, but has not been required during the year.

Diarrhœa caused 7 deaths, 6 of which were under one year old.

Lung Diseases—*Phthisis* was the cause of death in 7 cases, equal to a death-rate of .8 per 1,000. The question of the compulsory notification of phthisis was discussed by the Council early in the year, but was not agreed to. They, however, agreed that the ordinary notification fee should be paid for all cases of phthisis which were notified voluntarily by the Medical men in the District.

Bronchitis or Pneumonia caused 29 deaths, giving a death-rate of 3.6 per 1,000.

Heart Disease caused 10 deaths, giving a death-rate of 1.2 per 1,000.

Inquests—Six were held during the year. The causes of death were returned as follows :—

Suffocated in Bed	...	...	2 cases.
Pneumonia	...	...	1 case.
Hæmorrhage	...	...	1 case.
Fall from Cart	...	...	1 case.
Fall downstairs	...	...	1 case.

New Property—Eleven new houses have been certified for habitation.

Improved Property and Closet Accommodation—Eighty-five notices have been served upon property owners to improve the sanitary condition of their property. Fifty-two back-yards have been paved.

Twelve midden closets have been replaced by eight W.C.'s and four pails.

I am pleased to report that there is a marked improvement in the sanitary condition of the cottage property in the District.

Sewage Disposal Scheme—In January a L.G.B. Enquiry was held, and the Act of Parliament confirming the provisional order for the compulsory purchase of land at Alvaston, for carrying out the sewage disposal scheme, was passed. Negotiations are proceeding between the Council and the different landowners concerned.

Sewers. It is satisfactory to note that stoppages on the sewers have been much less frequent than in past years. This is no doubt due to the fact that the faulty portions of them have during the last few years been reconstructed wherever a stoppage occurred, and also to the periodical flushing of the sewers.

Water Supply—The storage capacity at the Baddiley Water Works was found to be quite inadequate. During the dry period, at first an intermittent supply of water to the District was resorted to for some weeks, which, as has been before pointed out, is a most undesirable arrangement in this District, with the present type of hydrants in use.

Later, the water in the mere below the level to which the Council are entitled to draw under the lease of the water rights, had to be drawn upon under special arrangement. The water in the mere was then below the level of the pipe leading to the water works, and continued so for some weeks.

A temporary pumping plant was put down, and the water was raised sufficiently high to gravitate to the works.

New Water Supply—The negotiations for a new water supply are not yet completed.

Registered Lodging Houses—Five in the District. These have at all times when visited been found clean and orderly, free from overcrowding, and no infectious disease has been found in them during the year.

Registered Slaughter Houses number fourteen. These have been regularly inspected, and with one exception found in a cleanly state.

In March, the tenant of a slaughter-house, after being repeatedly warned, was prosecuted for keeping his slaughter-house in a dirty state, and a conviction was obtained and a fine imposed.

Diseased Meat—On June 3rd I seized a carcase of beef which was diseased and unfit for food. The Council ordered the prosecution of the butcher concerned, and a conviction was obtained, and he was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

Dairies and Cowsheds number ten. These have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

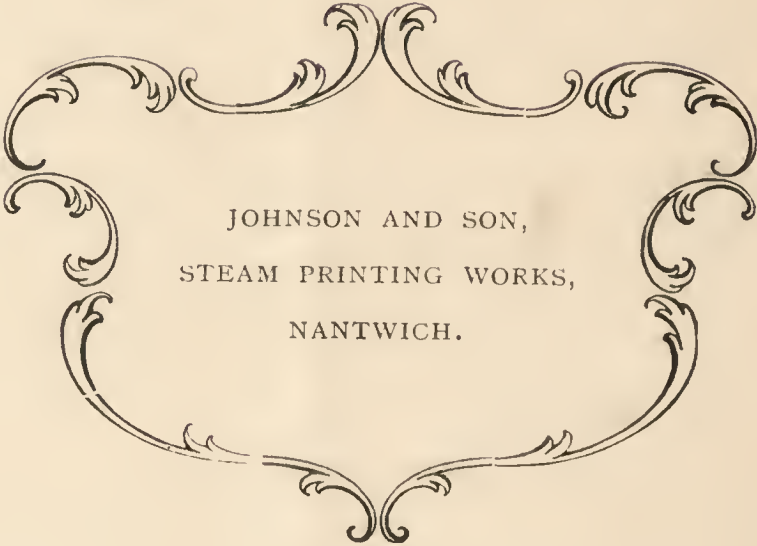
Factories. There are four clothing and four shoe factories in the District. The sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

Canal Boats. The Inspector reports that he has inspected thirty-seven boats, and has found no cause for complaint.

Midwives. The registered midwives have been visited periodically.

J. D. MUNRO.

25TH JANUARY, 1907.



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